

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1024
By Mumpower

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Herbert Malcolm "Jack" Trayer of Bristol, Virginia.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Herbert Malcolm "Jack" Trayer; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Trayer was a longtime resident of Bristol, a successful entrepreneur, and a well-known and highly respected member of his community; and

WHEREAS, he was born in 1909 in Daves, West Virginia, to the late Charles H. and Georgia Toney Trayer, and was raised in Pounding Mill, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Jack Trayer moved to Bristol in 1927 to begin a successful career in the restaurant, hospitality, and food service industries; his name appeared on many of Bristol's best-known restaurants, including *Trayer's* and *Trayer's Too*, but he will be best remembered for his support and service to the Bristol community and the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Trayer's first restaurant in Bristol, *Red, White, and Blue Bar-B-Que*, opened in 1927 on Moore Street; and

WHEREAS, a true patriot, Jack Trayer was a distinguished United States Navy veteran, returning to the Bristol area after his service to continue his noteworthy business career; and

WHEREAS, he then partnered with Homer Jones and Morris Ross to build the first Holiday Inn in Bristol in 1958; later, he partnered with Carol Moore and Homer Jones to develop other hotels in Bristol, Johnson City, Kingsport, Greenville, and Marion; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Trayer also developed a chain of grocery stores called *Trayer's Food Shop*; he was a former President of the Virginia Restaurant Association, and, in that role, he led the 1960s fight for racial integration on a State level; and

WHEREAS, serving former Governors Robb, Baliles, and Wilder as a member of the Governor's Council on Tourism, Jack Trayer often represented Bristol and southwest Virginia internationally with acumen and alacrity; and

WHEREAS, Jack Trayer was a public-spirited citizen of the highest order who gave generously to a multitude of community organizations, including the March of Dimes, the YMCA, Bristol Ballet, Girls, Incorporated, and the Barter Theatre; he also conceived the idea for the Emmanuel Episcopal Church to sponsor a Community Christmas Dinner, which is now in its 25th year; and

WHEREAS, as a strong supporter of the region's colleges, in the late 1940s, Mr. Trayer made a pledge to what was then known as Sullins College, followed by an endowment at King College; he also led the restoration of the Virginia Intermont College performing arts theatre; and

WHEREAS, Jack Trayer was also a longtime member and supporter of the Rotary Club of Bristol; he was selected as a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow, and he sponsored the Annual Rotary Christmas Luncheon for many years; and

WHEREAS, an exemplary public servant and consummate professional, Mr. Trayer worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; as a result, in 1992, Mr. Trayer was inducted by the Bristol Regional Medical Center Foundation into the Citizen Hall of Fame, which recognized him as a "great champion of our community"; and

WHEREAS, he was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Trayer is survived by his loving wife, Loretta; sisters, Louise Morgan and Peggy Trayer; daughter, Barbara; grandchildren, John Michael and his wife, Helen, Carolyn Musselman and her husband, Don, and Julie Byrd and her husband, Bill; and five great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Jack Trayer especially appreciated the efforts of his special caregivers, Faye Roark, Patty Wright, Deborah Gunning, Otis Murphy, Darlene Ramsey, and Ann Roark; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Trayer leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Herbert Malcolm "Jack" Trayer, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family and many friends of Jack Trayer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.